

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE.

Executive Office.
Austin, Texas, April 30, 1895.

To the Senate:

Senate bill No. 55, which provides that the Governor shall appoint a medical superintendent for each of the lunatic asylums of the State, who shall hold office for two years, and who when appointed shall have had at least two years experience in the management or treatment of the insane, is herewith returned without approval. The bill will too narrowly limit the number of physicians from whom selections may be made. Conditions in this State have not been such as to justify special study and private treatment of the insane, and consequently nominations would be confined to a very few physicians who have heretofore been connected with these institutions. Nor is it believed wise to limit the appointment of superintendents to physicians who have specially treated the insane. These superintendents perform other and equally responsible duties as those of mere attendant physicians. They care for great properties, direct the economical and judicious expenditure of more than a hundred thousand dollars annually, control and manage a large retinue of employes and servants, and should be selected as well for their executive and administrative capacity as for their professional skill and training.

C. A. CULBERSON.